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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 242007 TOSEC 100156
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 242007 TOSEC 100156

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 5043 ACTION SECSTATE USUN TEL AVIV
INFO AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA KUWAIT JERUSALEM DTD 10/7/77.

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 5043

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, MOPS, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 7642, (B) JERUSALEM 1600, (C) BEIRUT
USDAO BEIRUT IR 6 857 0101 77

1. REFTELS PRESENT FASCINATING AND AT SAME TIME
TROUBLING ACCOUNT OF FIRST ISRAELI-LEBANESE ILMAC
MEETING. AS AMBASSADOR LEWIS POINTS OUT (REF A),
(1) USG HAS TOLD ISRAELIS REPEATEDLY THAT FIRST
ILMAC MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVOTED TO PRACTICAL
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MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTRODUCING THE LEBANESE
FORCES INTO THE SOUTH AND NOT REPEAT NOT POLITICALLY
SENSITIVE ISSUES, AND (2) WEIZMAN MUST HAVE UNDER-
STOOD AHEAD OF TIME WHAT COULD AND COULD NOT BE
EXPECTED FROM THIS MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, ISRAELI
REP RAISED WHOLE GAMUT OF POLITICALLY SENSITIVE
QUESTIONS AND WEIZMAN PURPORTS TO BE GREATLY DIS-

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APPOINTED THAT GOL REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT PRE-
PARED TO DISCUSS THEM.

2. PRELIMINARY ORAL LEBANESE ACCOUNT OF THIS MEETING (REF C) IS
LESS COMPLETE THAN THAT REPORTED REF B AND CON-
TAINS A NUMBER OF BASIC DIFFERENCES:

(A) LEBANESE REPS APPARENTLY DID NOT UNDER-
STAND FIRMNESS OF ISRAELI DEMAND THAT THERE SHOULD
BE NO MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY INTO SOUTHERN
LEBANON WITHOUT ISRAELI AGREEMENT. (PARA 4F AND 7
REF B). THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY LEBANESE MILITARY REPS WERE
GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE MEETING. IN ANY
CASE, AS NOTED REF C, GENERAL KHOURY IS GOING
AHEAD WITH PLANS TO TAKE OVER CASERNES IN NABATIYEH,
TYRE AND TIBNINE.

(B) LEBANESE REP IS APPARENTLY THE ONLY PARTY
WHO THINKS THERE IS A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT FOR ANOTHER
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12. DATT WILL FOLLOW UP
ON THIS AND OTHER POINTS DURING NEXT MEETING WITH
GENERAL KHOURY. WE SHOULD HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF LEBANESE
UNDERSTANDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS FROM ILMAC MEETING ONCE WE
HAVE A COPY OF COLONEL YUNIS' WRITTEN REPORT TO GENERAL
KHOURY. (REF B NOT RECEIVED UNTIL AFTER DATT'S TALK WITH
GENERAL KHOURY.)
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3. WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY ISRAELI
INSISTENCE, REFERRED TO TWICE IN UN VERSION OF
OCTOBER 6 ILMAC MEETING AND REPEATED BY WEIZMAN,
THAT NO REPEAT NO LEBANESE ARMY UNITS SHOULD
MOVE SOUTH UNTIL ISRAELIS APPROVE. ARE ISRAELIS
REALLY TAKING THE POSITION THAT THEY WILL NOT
PERMIT PRESIDENT SARKIS TO SEND REGULAR ARMY
UNITS TO SOUTHERN LEBANON UNTIL THEY, THE
ISRAELIS, ARE "SATISFIED" WITH THE PROGRESS OF
THE DISCUSSIONS? IF SO, THIS IS DIRECTLY CON-
TRARY TO ASSURANCES THAT ISRAELIS HAVE GIVEN
US. FOR EXAMPLE, IN TEL AVIV 7054, CITING P.M.
BEGIN: "THE RIGHT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO ENTER
SOUTH LEBANON IS ABSOLUTE AND NOT QUESTIONED BY
THE GOI;" AND MORE RECENTLY TEL AVIV 7530 "WEIZMAN
ALSO RESTATED THE ISRAELI READINESS FOR ENTRY INTO
SOUTH LEBANON OF LEBANESE ARMY FORCES, AND CERTAINLY
WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THEIR ENTRY. IN FACT,
HE SAID, "WE WILL WELCOME THEM WITH OPEN ARMS."

4. FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, ISRAELI

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EFFORTS TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON ENTRY OF LAF TO
SOUTH LEBANON ALSO HOLD GREAT DANGERS FOR THE
CONTINUATION OF THE CEASEFIRE IN THAT AREA. ISRAELI
NEWS BROADCAST IN ENGLISH AT 1400 HOURS TODAY,
OCT 7, REPORTS A FIREFIGHT NEAR EL MERI; THE LONGER
IT TAKES TO GET LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS INTO THE BORDER
AREA, THE MORE LIKELY IT IS THAT SUCH INCIDENTS
WILL INCREASE AND SITUATION COULD DRIFT BACK
TO WHERE IT WAS A MONTH AGO OR EVEN GET WORSE.
AS A RESULT OF STRONG URGINGS BY USG IN BEIRUT,
NEW YORK, AND WASHINGTON, SARKIS, KHOURY AND
ADF COMMANDER KHATIB ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO
WORK OUT THE EXTREMELY COMPLEX PROBLEMS INVOLVED
IN GETTING LEBANESE ARMY UNITS INTO KEY AREAS IN SOUTH
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LEBANON. IF THEY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL DEFENSE MINISTER
WEIZMAN IS SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE DIS-
CUSSIONS, THE SITUATION MAY GET OUT OF HAND BEFORE
THEY GET THERE.

5. WE UNDERSTAND GENERAL KHOURY AND COLONEL YUNIS
ARE BRIEFING PRESIDENT SARKIS ON ILMAC MEETING
MORNING OCT 8. WE MAY GET HIGHER LEVEL, POLITICAL
REACTION FROM GOL FOLLOWING THAT MEETING.
LANE
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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